

**FY 2018 PRESS CONFERENCE & HEARINGS
NEW CHEMICALS REVIEW**

ISSUE/TOPIC: The Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act amending the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) went into effect immediately upon signature by the President on June 22, 2016. Amended TSCA section 5 requires the EPA to review a new chemical or new use notice and make affirmative determinations relating to safety of chemicals before they enter the market.

BACKGROUND:

- The EPA typically receives approximately 1,000 new chemicals submission per year and must conclude review within 90 days.
- Implementing the new affirmative determination mandate required time for the EPA to change the way these reviews are undertaken, thereby temporarily slowing the throughput rate.
- Accomplishments: Because the EPA has 90 days to complete a review, there are always approximately 300-350 cases under review at any given time. Given the need for the EPA to revise processes to respond to the new requirements of amended TSCA, the number of cases under review roughly doubled. The EPA has significantly reduced the backlog to less than 200 cases and is on track to eliminate the backlog by August 2017.
- Congressional Inquiries: The EPA has responded to inquiries and briefing requests from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

TALKING POINTS:

- The EPA has instituted a number of program changes, including increased staffing and policy changes, to meet the affirmative determination requirements of TSCA Section 5. Throughput rates are expected to return to normal by August 2017.

Page #

Name & phone of factsheet originator (8 pt font)
Name & phone of person approving fact sheet

Date